

Friends of TWCF MINUTES

January 14, 2020.

Silvano's Apartment at TWCF

Attending: Donna, Tatum, Toby, Barb, Tobin, Anthony, Elad, Naomi

10:10am Opening:

Naomi lit the Candle

Anthony rang the singing bowl

Donna passed around a branch of rosemary and asked us each to pluck a leaf, rub it between our fingers, and remember something about the farm. While we were doing this, Barb read the list of things FOTFA has accomplished or been involved in since our inception. (We need this list for our new website.)

Donna shared her memory of spreading Richard's ashes and her relationship with Richard & Toby as being responsible for her association with the farm.

Riley (Tatum's son) shared that he would someday like to be either an apprentice or a farmer!! Go Riley!!

Tatum shared the concern she felt when they first moved to MA regarding where she would source their food. Through a series of serendipitous events, she was led to TWCF. The feeling of having found the 'right' place was almost immediate when she and her children were warmly greeted by Lincoln and his campers the first time they set foot on this farm. This was before she even saw the food. She's thankful they're now members.

Toby told a story about her dowsing teacher who tested all his food and refused to eat anything that didn't test at least 'green'. Toby started dowsing the food she had access to from another CSA, from grocery stores, and from the farm. Most things tested yellow but, when she dowsed the farm's onions, they tested **BLUE!** (Very little on this earth tests violet, the best). Anthony remembers her bringing her rod and chart to the farm and showing him the results. Onions are a good test because they absorb a lot from the soil. Toby feels **this should be shared with all our members!!** The only color chart I could find on the internet is shown below. Red is toxic.



Barb cried – she can't talk about her love for the farm without crying.

Anthony looked lost, so Tatum asked how he met Lincoln and Trauger. He told us that when they were first married, and Glynn was 6-7 months pregnant with their first child, they lived for a short time in a very small PINK house in the middle of an apple orchard in Lyndeborough. One day, while Glynn was at school (she taught at Pine Hill) a man drove by in a tractor with a large trailer behind it and started spraying great multi-colored clouds of *something* on the apple trees. Anthony quickly closed all the windows in the house and called Alice, who had a special interest in fruit trees. She called the people doing the spraying and, after a 30-minute argument, got them to divulge what was in the spray. She called Anthony back and told him to move ASAP, tomorrow if possible. So they did, using Alice's truck. They moved into a small house on Lincoln's property (Lincoln's wife, Cindy, was Glynn's midwife and Anthony did work for Lincoln in return for Cindy's services).

Lincoln's farm at that time was next door to the Lucas Foundation and Anthony started farming for them. Lincoln moved, and acquired several dairy cows. When Trauger, who was a traveling biodynamic speaker, came to town and the person responsible for showing him around fell through at the last minute, Alice was asked to fill in. Two days later Trauger left. A week after that Alice informed them that she had been in constant contact with him while he was gone and they were going to get married. They did! Shortly thereafter, Trauger suggested that since he was getting some cows and thinking of growing vegetables, and Lincoln had some cows, and Anthony was growing vegetables, that if they all worked together they could do something more than if they each did their own thing. The rest is history....

Toby then asked Anthony how he originally got interested in Anthroposophy. He replied that he had been looking for ways to understand the world and, while living in London, had read about a lot of different people who had approached the subject but always ended up feeling unsatisfied with their answers. Then, while living with Glynn when he first moved to the US, he had access to the books she owned on Anthroposophy and in a very short while knew that he had found what he was looking for. Steiner had gone further into everything than anyone else he had come across....

Naomi shared that she was looking for ways to differentiate things that would help her, from things that would help her community. She was having trouble growing vegetables in her quarter-acre plot and sought out people who were farming successfully. She now grows medicinal herbs in that plot because she gets more than enough food from TWCF.

Elad and Tobin arrived later and missed this part of the meeting.

Anthony did share how lucky we were to have ‘found’ Elad because, like Anthony, he recognizes that one of the keys to being a good farmer is good organization, and Elad has that in spades!

Donna mentioned Trey, the potential apprentice we met at the last board meeting, and Anthony shared that he would indeed make a good apprentice, but probably did not have enough BD knowledge to be a good assistant farmer. Follow up is now in Elad’s hands.

Elad joined us and agreed he will be following up with both Trey, hoping to bring him on at the beginning of March when Andrea leaves, and with Ally and her boyfriend who are potential apprentices for vegetables and animals. Scooter will be leaving at the end of March.

Elad did mention that housing will be a problem since we only have space for 5 people. **FOTFA needs to follow up on this!!!**

We gave Elad a copy of the list of things FOTFA has done, as well as our survey results. There was some discussion on the survey – what prompted it, how it was conducted, how many people responded, etc... **Barb will forward the complete results to both Elad and Naomi, and will give Elad access to the Survey Monkey results for metrics.**

Barb mentioned that she had some feedback from Brian regarding Sarah’s newsletter proposal – it had been positively received but they have not yet had time to discuss it fully and will be taking it up in the near future. (I have confirmed with Jamie that it has NOT yet been discussed at a BOD meeting, but is on the agenda for the next one.)

Our next topic was our acronym, FOTFA. Barb feels that FOTFA is a guttural unfriendly sounding name and, before she starts work on our website, would like to see us change it. She proposed FriendsOfTWCF (we would be known as “Friends”), or ActiveFriendsOfTWCF (we would be known as AFT.) The general consensus was that **FriendsOf TWCF was better**, but Anthony cautioned us that we need to insure that we are not confused with THE Friends, who are the Quakers.

We then discussed the extension and decided that we should have both .com and .org, and redirect .com to .org. There was discussion on why we needed a separate site, rather than a page on the farm website. If Jamie can create a space on the farm website which we have total control over, then we are amenable to hosting our data there, but we prefer a separate site with a link to the farm site. **Barb will work with Jamie on the different possibilities.**

Barb asked if there was any interest in making t-shirts available at the pledge meeting. Anthony agreed to include our order from with the document he sends out before the meeting. Tatum felt that with enough lead time, we could offer more/better options than in the last run. We need to discuss timing (perhaps it would be better to place the order so that we can distribute the t-shirts at the meeting?) **Tatum and Barb will follow up on that.**

We broached the subject of farm member’s emails and discussed the possibility of Friends (notice, I’m no longer using FOTFA?!) having access to them. Elad also wanted a way to send out tiny newsblasts – like a photo of the first tomato ripening – and asked if Instagram were a possibility since he didn’t want to deal with replies. While not everyone is ‘on’ Instagram, it’s a MUCH better medium than email for sending out one photo and, in our opinion, is more a problem for the people not on it than vice versa. Go Elad!!

Anthony reminded us that the farm has a responsibility regarding member emails and cautioned that they must always be sent BCC, which is a problem for him because his email client only allows him to copy 50 people at one time. We (Friends) would like the farm to send out an opt-in/opt-out newsletter giving us access to those people who WANT to be notified of our events (and we promise we will always BCC).

Donna mentioned that Benjamin was planning another ‘walk’. Tobin pointed out that his previous event was on a Tuesday which limited participation. Unfortunately, Benjamin has farmer’s markets on the weekends. **If we want more people to attend, what do we do???**

This brought us to a discussion on the pledge meeting itself where Anthony reiterated that the BOD had decided to separate the meeting into two parts – the budget meeting which was optional, and the pledge meeting which was mandatory. The introduction round would be replaced with an invitation to say something and would be followed by a longer period for the pot-luck party. Benjamin will be organizing the fun parts of the pledge meeting.

We needed to end the official part of the meeting at 11:30 and it was now 11:25.

Tatum read a quote from “Conjectures of a Guilty Bystander” by Thomas Merton:

"The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. More than that, it is cooperation in violence. The frenzy of the activist...destroys ones own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of ones own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom which makes work fruitful."

Donna blew out the candle.

Toby announced that we had two things to celebrate today – Elad’s joining the farm, and Donna’s birthday on Saturday. She had brought GF peach cupcakes (using peaches grown on her tree!) and chocolate chip cookies to share! We sang Happy Birthday, enjoyed the treats, and the party broke up.

Next meeting Feb 11, 2020